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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5918

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIAN BACKGROUND PAPER ON RICHARD MISSION

1. RAND DAILY MAIL THIS MORNING PUBLISHED INSIDE PAGE STORY UNDER TITLE "RICHARD WILL FAIL, SAYS SALISBURY". RDM REPORTER IN SALISBURY REPORTS THAT YESTERDAY RHODESIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELEASED A BACKGROUND BRIEFING PAPER ON EVE OF MR. IVOR RICHARD'S VISIT SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR BRITAIN MERELY AS AN ARBITRATOR AND INTERMEDIARY SINCE NO SETTLEMENT SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES IS POSSIBLE.

2. THRUST OF PAPER, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, IS THAT RICHARD MISSION IS UNREALISTIC BECAUSE:
-- BRITAIN IS BIASED TOWARD THE BLACK NATIONALISTS.
--BRITAIN HAS A RECORD OF NAIVETE AND IGNORANCE ON RHODESIA.
-- RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES WILL NOT SERVE UNDER BRITISH OR COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS.
-- SUGGESTION THAT THE GUERRILLAS SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE SECURITY FORCES IS FANCIFUL.
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3. PAPER REPORTEDLY GOES ON TO SAY THAT WITHOUT EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY BRITAIN COULD NOT RESIST BLACK RE-VOLUTIONARIES WHOSE VICTORY WOULD ENSURE WHITE FLIGHT AND MARXIST TAKEOVER. MR. RICHARD IS PORTRAYED AS TRYING TO EMULATE DR. KISSINGER'S TACTICS OF REACHING GENERAL CONSENSUS

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BETWEEN FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS AND SOUTH AFRICA AND THEN PRESENT-
ING THE RHODESIANS WITH A TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT DEAL. BRITAIN
IS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO LAY FAILURE OF THE SETTLEMENT TALKS
AT THE DOOR OF THE "INSTRASIGENT" RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT.

4. I CALLED HAROLD HAWKINS ABOUT THE REPORTED PAPER. HE
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PAPER EXISTED AND PROMISED COPY. HE DOWN-
PLAYED ITS SIGNIFICANCE BY SAYING DOCUMENT WAS MFA INFORMATION
SECTION HANDOUT, WAS NOT VERY ACCURATE, AND HAS BEEN OVERPLAYED
BY PRESS. HE DID NOT SOUND VERY CONVINCING. RELEASE OF PAPER
ON EVE OF RICHARD ARRIVAL IN SALISBURY AND BURDEN OF CONTENT
AS SUMMARIZED BY RDM LOOKS LIKE DELIBERATE MOVE TO THROW
COLD WATER ON RICHARD MISSION.

5. WILL POUCH TEXT OF PAPER (HAWKINS SAYS IT IS 10 PAGES
SINGLE SPACE) TO DEPARTMENT IN TODAY'S POUCH IF RECEIVED IN
TIME.
BOWDLER

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